GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1294
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2014
TESTING KITS FOR DIABETIC PATIENTS
Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has undertaken any survey/study to ascertain the number of people suffering from diabetes in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof, State/UT-wise;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make cheap glucose testing kits/strips available for the diabetic patients and also to spread awareness in this regard;

(d) whether any project has been launched to develop indigenous glucometers and glucose testing strips at affordable cost in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be made available to the public?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) & (b): The data available from the Indian Council of Medical Research, India Diabetes (INDIAB) Study Phase-I done in the rural and the urban settings in 3 States and 1 Union Territory viz. Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and Chandigarh, indicates the range of prevalence of diabetes from 5.3 % to 13.7 %. Under National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke(NPCDCS) launched in 2010, screening for diabetes has been taken up for persons aged 30 years and above. As on 31st March, 2014, a total number of 5.57 crore persons have been screened for Diabetes out of which 6.14 % are found suspected for Diabetes.

(c): Under NPCDCS, the Ministry had supplied 29,000 glucometers, 5.8 crore glucostrips and 6.67 crore lancets (testing kits for diabetes) to 21 States and in 4 metro-cities for Diabetes screening free of cost.

Awareness generation activities undertaken by the State Governments have also been supplemented by the Ministry. In addition, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities through Prasar Bharti under the 'Swasth Bharat Programme' are also being carried out for various non-communicable diseases including Diabetes.

(d) & (e): Indian Council of Medical Research(ICMR) has informed that they have supported 15 projects to develop indigenous glucometers and glucose testing strips at affordable cost in the country. Among them investigators at the Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai and at Birla Institute of Technology Science, Pilani (Hyderabad Campus), have developed 2 indigenous devices and testing strips for estimation of blood glucose. These are not yet commercialised. .